

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 14

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12—Relative to Brain Injury Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State March 19, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 12, Alquist. Brain Injury Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of March of each year as Brain Injury Awareness Month to raise awareness about the symptoms of, and ways of preventing, brain injuries.

WHEREAS, According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1.4 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year, and 50,000 of those individuals die as a result of these injuries. In California alone, there are 22,400 reported TBIs per year; additionally, an estimated 10 million Americans are affected by acquired brain injury (ABI), which includes diagnoses of stroke, anoxia, and toxic exposure, as well as TBI. There are an additional 11,000 Californians that sustain ABIs per year. This makes ABI the second most prevalent injury and cause of disability in the United States; and

WHEREAS, With the CDC reporting that a TBI occurs every 21 seconds, this public health concern is the leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults. In fact, the CDC estimates that approximately 5.3 million Americans live with disabilities resulting from brain injury; and

WHEREAS, The CDC estimates that each year, one million children and adolescents are taken to emergency rooms with traumatic brain injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents, falls, sports, and abuse. It is also estimated that TBI to children between birth and 19 years of age, annually result in 7,000 deaths, 150,000 hospitalizations, with approximately 30,000 becoming permanently disabled, and over \$1 billion in hospital care; and

WHEREAS, The costs relating to brain injury are staggering, and individuals with severe brain injury can typically face life-long disabilities, even after rehabilitation. The CDC also estimates that cumulative costs exceed \$60 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with severe brain injury suffer from serious physical impairments and a variety of perceptual, cognitive, psychiatric, emotional, and behavioral complications, including impaired interpersonal and problem solving skills, memory loss, decreased thought processing abilities, speech and seizure disorders, and physical deficits; and

WHEREAS, The only cure for brain injury is prevention, and public awareness is critical to the prevention of brain injury and to enhancing the recovery process of all individuals affected by TBI; and

WHEREAS, The California Brain Injury Association is a statewide membership organization dedicated to providing prevention, research, education, advocacy, and support services to all individuals affected by brain injury and to the general public; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature designate March of each year as Brain Injury Awareness Month in the State of California and that public officials and the citizens of California are encouraged to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs to raise awareness about the symptoms of, and ways of preventing, brain injuries; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.